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1. Document ID: US 6294847 B1

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File: USPT

Sep 25, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6294847

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6294847 B1

TITLE: Bistable micro-electromechanical switch

DATE-ISSUED: September 25, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

CITY

STATE ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

De Los Santos; Hector J.

Inglewood

CA

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

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TYPE CODE

The Boeing Company

Seattle WA

02

APPL-NO: 09/ 439233

DATE FILED: November 12, 1999

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FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 307/125, 333/101, 333/105, 333/262, 200/131, 200/245, 200/246,

200/414, 200/421

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PAT-NO

ISSUE-DATE

PATENTEE-NAME

US-CL

5578976

November 1996

Yao

333/262

6069540

May 2000

Berenz et al.

333/101

ART-UNIT: 286

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Ballato; Josie

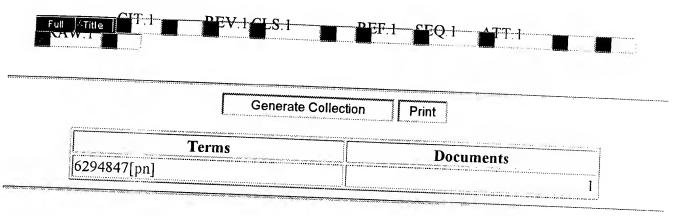
ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Deberadinis; Robert L.

ABSTRACT:

A bistable micro-electromechanical switch (10) having two parallel plate capacitors (17, 19) spaced a distance from each other on a substrate (12). A transmission line (30), having a detached segment (22), that is movable or the substrate (12), is located

on the substrate (12) between the parallel plate capacitors (17, 19). A dielectric beam (24) is attached to the movable transmission line segment (22) and the ends of the dielectric beam (24) protrude into each of the parallel plate capacitors (17, 19). When a voltage (26, 28) is applied to one of the capacitors (17 or 19), the dielectric beam (24) is pulled into the capacitor (17 or 19) and brings the movable transmission line segment (22) with it. As the transmission line segment (22) is moved either into, or out of, alignment with the transmission line (30), a path through the transmission line is either closed, or opened.

7 Claims, 8 Drawing figures



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